

## BANKERS HOLD GROUP MEETING

### WELCOME EXTENDED TO GUESTS

Special Cars Bring Bunch of Prominent  
Financiers from Distance; Business  
Session, Banquet and Ball Make  
Up Busy Day

With the tooting of auto horns and  
with badges of white, blue, red and  
purple silk streaming from their  
breasts, bankers rode up and down  
the streets and avenues of Chickasha  
this morning, inspecting the prettiest  
little city in the great southwest.

Some of the bankers wandered about  
the city on foot, gathering together  
in groups on the streets' corners and  
entering and inspecting the different  
banks of the "entertaining" city.

And badges were everywhere. Not  
Democratic badges, not Republican  
badges, not Epworth league badges,  
not Bull Moose badges, not badges that  
smacked of any political faith or re-  
ligious creed or dogma, but badges  
which talked of money; which breath-  
ed of money; which throbbed and  
scintillated and suggested abundance  
of the "root of all evil."

Coming, special cars the bankers—  
old and young, big and little, great and  
near—great—began arriving in Chicka-  
sha with the first hour of the morn-  
ing and continued coming on every  
train until afternoon.

From Oklahoma City, in the car  
"Talarota" came George D. Davis of  
the National bank of Claremore, Clare-  
more, Okla.; W. B. Harrison of the St.  
Louis Cattle Loan company, St. Louis,  
Mo.; M. R. Sturtevant of the Central  
National bank, St. Louis, Mo.; W. S.  
Guthrie of the Farmers' National bank  
of Oklahoma City, Okla.; H. B. Carson  
of the American National bank of Okla-  
homa City, Okla.; F. J. Spies, Jr., of  
the Bartlesville National bank of Bar-  
tlesville, Okla.; F. W. Bryant of the  
Central National bank of Tulsa, Okla.;  
T. J. Hartman of the Producers State  
bank of Tulsa, Okla.; G. E. Dowles of  
the First National bank of Blackwell,  
Okla.; G. C. Robertson of the First  
National bank of Lawton, Okla.; C.  
H. Chase of the Mechanics-American  
bank of St. Louis, Mo.; W. E. Purdy of  
the Chase National bank of New York;  
M. Deener of the State National bank  
of Oklahoma City, Okla.; W. E. Gor-  
don, of the Exchange National bank of  
Tulsa, Okla.; G. S. Weitzel of the  
Security National bank of Okla-  
homa City, Okla.; H. S. Shelor of the  
National Security company of Musko-  
gee, Okla.; T. C. Serogues of the Okla-  
homa Stock Yards National bank of  
Oklahoma City, Okla.; F. J. Paro of  
the National Bank of Commerce, St.  
Louis, Mo.; C. W. Benedict of the First  
National bank of Tulsa, Okla.; F. Em-  
erich of the Rock Island lines—head-  
quarters, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Col. Thomas H. Dwyer, president of  
the Chickasha National Bank and pres-  
ident of the Oklahoma Bankers' as-  
sociation, met the car at Oklahoma  
City and came through with the guests.  
The Kansas City car, "Oscura," came  
in attached to Rock Island train No.  
11, arriving in Chickasha at 1:10 this  
morning. On board this car were C. B.  
McCluskey, National Reserve bank; L.  
A. Wilson, Federal Reserve bank; C.  
H. Moore, Southwest National Bank of  
Commerce; J. C. English, Traders Na-  
tional bank; C. W. Watson, Kansas  
Clearing House association; J. M. Hol-  
lings, Jr., Interstate National bank; G.  
C. Ruddy, Commerce Trust company;  
Harry Foster, Commonwealth National  
bank; C. W. Allendorfer, First Na-  
tional bank; A. W. Anderson, Stock  
Yards National bank; H. L. Larsen,  
Commercial National bank; A. E. Ram-  
sey, Drovers National bank; I. E. Gas-  
kill, Drovers National bank, all of Kan-  
sas City, Mo., and W. C. Thompkins,  
Third National bank of St. Louis, Mo.,  
and Lewis Duncan of the First Na-  
tional bank of Muskogee, Okla.

Following the drives over the city,  
impromptu affairs, with the cars of  
local bankers commandeered for the  
occasion, the bankers assembled at

the headquarters at the Sugg theater.  
Rev. G. Lyle Smith of the Chickasha  
Christian church, pronounced the in-  
vocation, calling Divine guidance to  
come to the aid of those upon whom  
fortune had smiled, as well as to the  
aid of their more unfortunate broth-  
ers.

Col. Thomas H. Dwyer, president of  
the Oklahoma Bankers' association, and  
president of the Chickasha National  
bank, welcomed the "wandering bank-  
ers" to "our beautiful city."

(Continued on Page Three.)

## CARRANZA GARRISON BESIEGED

By United Press.

EL PASO, Tex., Feb. 22.—Villa with  
900 well armed men has besieged Guer-  
rero, according to official advices re-  
ceived here.

The commander of the Carranza gar-  
rison at Guerrero sent word that his  
force was greatly outnumbered, but  
he would try to hold out until assist-  
ance arrived.

It is reported that the Villistas ex-  
ecuted eighty prisoners who were taken  
after the defeat of General Cavaos  
near Cushturichie. Cavaos com-  
manded one of the columns of Car-  
ranza troops sent to exterminate Villa.

## ON TRAIL OF CRONES

By United Press.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 22.—Chi-  
cago authorities today notified the lo-  
cal police that they have information  
to the effect that Jean Crones, the al-  
leged leader of the anarchistic group  
which attempted to poison the guests  
at the Mundelet banquet, is in hiding  
here.

In connection with a search for  
Crones, the local police are investigat-  
ing a fire which damaged St. Paul's  
Episcopal church to the amount of  
\$5,000.

## THWEATT BUILDING PRETTY BUNGALOW

R. F. Thweatt is having an attrac-  
tive bungalow erected at 312 South Sixth  
street. The structure will be, when  
completed, an attractive five-room  
dwelling, modern throughout. F. C.  
Hall of the Citizens' National bank,  
has rented the bungalow and will move  
his family into it upon its completion,  
on or about the first of April.

Mr. Thweatt stated this morning, in  
speaking of the great demand for small  
modern houses in Chickasha at the  
present time, that he had numerous  
applications for the rental of the  
building, beginning with the breaking  
of the ground for the foundation by  
the contractor. "I could rent a dozen  
such houses," Mr. Thweatt said, "with-  
out a particle of trouble."

## FOUR BURNED TO DEATH.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Four persons  
were burned to death and one killed  
by jumping when fire swept a theatri-  
cal rooming house here this morn-  
ing.

## WEATHER FORECAST. For Oklahoma.

Probably unsettled and cooler.  
Local Temperature.  
During twenty-four hours ending 8  
a. m. today:  
Maximum, 75 degrees.  
Minimum, 52 degrees.

## EVENTS IN THE WAR ONE YEAR AGO TODAY.

The American cotton steamer  
Evelyn struck a mine off the  
German coast and sank. Ger-  
mans made a second attempt on  
English coast. Petrograd said  
the Teutons' attempt to wipe  
out Russians in East Prussia  
failed, but admitted contin-  
uance of the Russian retreat.

## DISPATCH OF FINAL NOTE FORECAST

By United Press.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 22.—The  
end of informal negotiations and the  
dispatch of a final formal note to Ger-  
many, emphasizing the need for un-  
equivocal assurances regarding subma-  
rine warfare, have been practically de-  
cided upon by the administration.

The only thing that can intervene to  
prevent the carrying out of this course,  
it is said, is the arrival of definite as-  
surances that the new German decree  
will not be put into effect on March 1  
as announced.

The United States will insist that the  
new German policy be made to square  
with German promises in the ex-  
changes in regard to the Lusitania  
case. Secretary Lansing conferred with  
the president for half an hour today,  
but refused to make any statement.

## British Notified.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 22.—No-  
tice of the warnings to Americans not  
to sail on the French liner Espagne  
will be forwarded by the British em-  
bassy to its home government.

## 50 TRACTS ARE SOLD

George A. Smith of the state school  
land department, conducted the sale  
of Grady county school lands at the  
county court house at 9 o'clock this  
morning. Fifty-two separate tracts, or  
parcels of lands were sold, the prices  
bid ranging on an average from \$21 to  
\$33 per acre.

The tracts sold were all leaseholds  
and of all sizes in acreage. The largest  
individual tract was the land under  
leasehold of John Tucker. This body  
of land was appraised at \$4,000 and  
was bid by John Tucker at \$6,650.

Mr. Smith, accompanied by his pri-  
vate secretary and stenographer, left  
this afternoon for Anadarko.

## TEXAS BANKERS HOLD MEETING

By United Press.

ABILENE, Tex., Feb. 22.—J. L.  
Price of the Atlantic National bank  
of New York, and James R. Wiley,  
president of the Citizens' National  
bank of St. Joseph, Mo., were the prin-  
cipal speakers today at the meeting  
of the Eleventh district of the Texas  
Bankers' association. The former spoke  
on thrift, and the latter on usury.

J. M. Potter of Gainesville, chair-  
man, called the meeting to order this  
morning. Mayor F. N. Kirby gave the  
address of welcome and Potter re-  
sponded. The other speakers were  
J. A. Kemp, president of the City Na-  
tional bank of Wichita Falls, and W. G.  
Gregg, chairman of the agricultural  
committee of the association.

## BURGLARY INVESTIGATED BY SHERIFF BAILEY.

Sheriff Hodge Bailey returned yes-  
terday evening from Abilene, where he  
had been called, as stated in yester-  
day's issue of the Express, to investi-  
gate the burglary of two stores in that  
little city. Sheriff Bailey reports the  
two stores entered by the burglars be-  
long to Will Johns and A. L. Ramsey.  
Some cash, found in the cash regis-  
ters, a lot of candy and tobacco and  
a few cigars were stolen. It is probab-  
le that arrests will follow during the next  
few days.

## TURKS ARE MENACED BY BRITISH

Large Bodies of English Reinforcements  
Moving Up Tigris Valley to Relieve  
Threatened Garrison; Advance  
on Bagdad Expected

## FRENCH TRENCHES TAKEN BY TEUTONS

War Office Admits Successes of Enemy  
But Declares Part of Lost Ground  
is Recaptured and Germans  
Lose Heavy

By United Press.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—According to  
dispatches received today the Turks  
are falling back along a two hundred  
mile front in Mesopotamia.

Reports say the Turks are now men-  
aced by a new movement of large  
bodies of British reinforcements that  
are coming up the Tigris river toward  
Kut-el-Amara, where the English gar-  
rison has been in sore straits.

When the weather permits these  
forces to advance to the relief of Gen.  
Townsend's besieged garrison a new  
offensive will be launched in an ef-  
fort to push on to Bagdad.

The Turks are said to be evacuating  
Armenian territory between Erzurum  
and Mush, following the rapid advance  
of the Russians in that region.

## Germans Take Trenches.

By United Press.  
PARIS, Feb. 22.—Gains were made  
by the Germans on the western front,  
according to admissions made by the  
war office in the official announce-  
ment made today.

It was stated that seven German bat-  
talions carried half a mile of the  
French first line trenches and also  
second trenches in many places in the  
Bols-Giverny region.

French counter attacks, it was fur-  
ther stated, drove the enemy from  
most of the second line positions that  
had been captured. It is claimed that  
the German losses in the operations  
reported were very heavy.

## Gerard Has Accident.

By United Press.  
BERLIN, Feb. 22.—Ambassador  
Gerard sustained a broken collar bone  
and injured his left leg while skiing  
near Munich. He was brought to a  
hospital here for an X-ray examina-  
tion.

## AMERICANS WARNED OF SEA DANGER

By United Press.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Americans  
intending to sail for Europe Thurs-  
day on the French liner Espagne have  
received anonymous letters warning  
them against taking passage on the  
vessel.

According to reports received by of-  
ficials of the steamship company the  
writers of the letters point to the dan-  
ger of submarine attacks on the French  
liner.

The new German decree relative to  
submarine warfare is scheduled to  
become effective March 1, and the Es-  
pagne is due at Bordeaux March 4.

Officials of the company stated that  
the Espagne would sail as previously  
announced.

Whether any prospective passengers  
who received the warning letters will  
heed them is not known.

## MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.

The Chickasha Retail Merchants' as-  
sociation will hold its regular meeting  
in the office of the secretary tomorrow  
evening at 8 o'clock. In addition to  
the regular routine business the annual  
election of officers will be held and  
other matters of importance will come  
up for attention. A full attendance  
of the membership is expected.



The Virginia Colonel  
Earliest Life Portrait of George Washington, by C. W. Peill, Painted in 1772

## OHIO READY TO RESIST INVADERS

Many Cities Join in Movement for Military  
Preparedness; Militia Companies and  
Rifle Clubs are Formed; Citizen's  
Encampment Planned

By United Press.

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 22.—Ohio  
cities, moved by President Wilson's  
preparedness speeches, are getting  
ready to resist the invader, whosever  
the enemy may be and whenever  
he may come. Citizens' military com-  
panies have been organized, rifle clubs  
formed and encampments framed of  
chambers of commerce.

In Cleveland, arrangements were  
made for a monster military parade  
on Washington's birthday as a demon-  
stration of the city's support of pre-  
paredness. A citizens' school, with  
700 recruits enrolled, drills rookies  
at night in military tactics. S. S. Walsh  
has donated the use of 18 acres of land  
in the city limits for use as a rifle  
range.

At Canton, O., a citizens' military  
school, conducted by O. N. G. officers,  
with 200 men enrolled, has been start-  
ed. A rifle club of 100 has also been  
formed and the defense committee,  
headed by Mayor C. A. Stolberg, is  
planning to organize a light artillery  
company. Dayton is organizing a citi-  
zens' military company. A machine  
gun company was recently established  
as part of the national guard.

Yonestown has a citizens' military  
company of 350 men. The chamber of  
commerce has endorsed preparedness.  
Steubenville has a rifle club just or-  
ganized, and plans are under way to  
establish a county encampment simi-  
lar to the Plattsburg camp, next sum-  
mer. National guard officers at Ge-  
neva and Ashtabula are forming  
signal corps. Ashtabula has endorsed  
preparedness and the chamber of com-  
merce is trying to secure a govern-  
ment munitions plant.

Sandusky has revived its national  
guard company and has formed a citi-  
zens' military company. Warren is  
planning a citizens' military company.  
Fremont has begun a campaign for a  
new armory, and a citizens' military  
company. Plainville's Paradise club  
has a citizens' reserve company.

## WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

Today being the birth of the "Father  
of His Country" all banks, the offices  
at the federal building and many of  
the county offices were closed  
throughout the day. The general de-  
livery at the post office closed during  
the afternoon, but one delivery was  
made by carrier. None of the rural  
carriers went out.

## SESSION OF SOLONS IS CONCLUDED

Law Makers Wind Up Work and Adjourn  
After Running Five Weeks; Finishing  
Touches Put on Proceedings  
This Morning

## STRONG ANTI-USURY LAW IS ENACTED

Grady County Members in Both Houses  
Vote for Measure; Suffrage Amend-  
ment to Be Submitted; Summa-  
ry of Bills Passed

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Feb. 22.—  
After being in session a little over five  
weeks, the state legislature finally  
completed its work this morning and  
adjourned at noon today. The real  
business of the session was wound up  
last night, the proceedings this morn-  
ing being confined to the signing of  
bills by the presiding officers and  
other formalities.

At last night's session the anti-usury  
bill and the registration bill were fi-  
nally passed. The usury law, which is  
regarded as a strong one, received the  
votes of the Grady county members  
in both the house and senate.

## Anti-Usury Act.

The salient features of the anti-usury  
law, as finally enacted, are as follows:  
Section 1 re-enacts the present law,  
and provides that the debtor may plea  
as a setoff or counterclaim double the  
amount of interest charged or collected  
when suit is brought on a loan con-  
tract. Also it repeals that part of the  
law which requires demand to be made  
as a precedent to bringing suit to re-  
cover penalties.

Section 2 provides the manner in  
which the debtor, without bringing any  
suit, may recover usurious interest  
paid, or charged, by providing that  
the debtor may tender to the holder of  
any usurious contract the amount of  
money actually received by him, less  
the entire amount of interest charg-  
ed, reserved or collected and on failure  
of the holder of the usurious con-  
tract to accept such tender within 24  
hours operates as a satisfaction and  
cancellation of the entire debt. The  
section further provides that in case  
no tender is made and suit is brought  
the debtor may go into court and de-  
posit the amount of money actually  
borrowed, less double the amount of  
usurious interest charged or collected,  
together with the cost, and if this is  
not accepted by the plaintiff in the  
case, it operates as a cancellation and  
satisfaction of the debt. It also pro-  
vides that the act does not repeal or  
modify any of the provisions of the  
negotiable instrument law.

By section 3 it is provided that where  
a usurious contract is made and trans-  
ferred the person making said contract  
is made liable to the party provided  
in the act.

In section 4 there is a provision that  
no suit upon a usurious contract en-  
tered into after the passage of the act  
of \$300 or less shall be filed in court  
unless an affidavit is also filed that no  
usurious interest has been charged or  
collected and without such affidavit no  
process of the court can be issued. If  
on trial of the case it is shown usury  
has been charged or collected, it is  
mandatory for the court to dismiss the  
appeal at cost of the plaintiff.

Section 5 provides that all state  
banks shall make quarterly reports to  
the bank commissioner of all contracts  
upon which a usurious rate of interest  
has been charged. Such reports are to  
be published in the annual report of  
the bank commissioner. It further pro-  
vides that when such report shows that  
any bank is violating the law the com-  
missioner shall report the violation to  
the governor, who shall order the com-  
missioner to bring suit through the  
office of the attorney general to can-  
cel the charter of such offending bank.  
Among the other important measures  
enacted by the special session were the  
following:

## Other Measures Enacted.

Provided for establishment of twine  
factory at penitentiary.

Law to give voters, absent from  
home on general election days the  
right to vote at any precinct in the  
state.

Providing that counties may vote

(Continued on Page Three.)

## CAN CARRY 25 BILLION WAR DEBT

British Financier Declares John Bull in No  
Danger of Being Crushed by Obli-  
gations Caused by Carrying  
on Conflict

By CHAS. P. STEWART.

(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

LONDON, Feb. 22.—Even if England  
should end the war with a debt of 5,  
000,000,000 pounds (approximately \$25,  
000,000,000) the burden would not be  
crushing, according to Lord Inchcape,  
the English financier and statesman,  
here today.

Such a load, said his lordship at a  
National Provincial Bank of England  
stockholders' meeting over which he  
presides, would mean an annual charge  
of only 200,000,000 pounds (about \$1,  
000,000,000) reckoning 5 per cent in-  
terest, with a 1 per cent sinking fund.  
To this his lordship added an esti-  
mated 100,000,000 pounds (\$500,000,000)  
annually in pensions. Before the war,  
he remarked, the country's annual ex-  
penditures were 200,000,000 pounds  
(\$1,000,000,000) making the total:

Estimated pensions, 100,000,000  
pounds annually.  
Fixed charges on per-war basis, 200,  
000,000 pounds annually.

Or a total of 600,000,000 pounds an-  
nually.

Present English taxation, continued  
Lord Inchcape, is bringing in nearly  
400,000,000 pounds annually. He ex-  
plained that this would mean another  
200,000,000 pounds would have to be  
provided every year and expressed  
the opinion that this could be done  
either by "additional taxes or by a  
reduction in extravagant expenditures  
not only private but public."

His lordship appeared to think a  
\$25,000,000,000 debt a possibility, but  
about the maximum.

## 3 TRAINS IN SMASH-UP

By United Press.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Ten persons  
were killed and sixteen injured in a  
triple wreck of two New Haven trains  
and one freight train near Milford,  
Conn., today.

Passenger train No. 79, bound for  
New York, stopped to repair defective  
air brakes and passenger No. 5 crashed  
into the rear end. A moment later  
the freight train ran into No. 5, all  
of the trains being west bound.